AN ANALYSIS OF RELICT PLANT COMMUNITIES OF GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

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Progress in the third quarter of this second project year was mainly in two areas: 1) identification of plant specimens, and 2) synthesis of quantitative plot data. Each of these are discussed briefly below.

1. Plant Specimen Identification.

Collection of both unknown and voucher plant specimens was one of the tasks of relict-area field inspection in 1986 and 1987. About 450 numbers were collected overall within the NRA. All of them were recently identified or confirmed, except for a few difficult specimens with tentative identifications that still need final determination.

2. Plot Data Synthesis.

Quantitative data gathered in relict areas last May consisted of cover and number (density) of perennial plants in 50 meter-square quadrats along a transect line. These raw data have been summarized into absolute and relative cover, density and frequency. The results will be the basis for comparisons between relict areas. Because these data were taken in permanent plots, they can also serve as baselines for subsequent analysis of change, if any, over time.

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Preparations are now underway for the next immediate accomplishments. These include the following:

1. A final literature review to ensure that no pertinent references have been overlooked in developing the vegetation classification for the NRA.

2. Creation of plant species lists, based on the just-completed identifications, for the relict areas inspected.